

**TOP SECRET**

50X1

Cy 1 of 6

31 OCT 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

SUBJECT : Request for Project Coverage of TYURA TAM

1. A most urgent problem faced by the intelligence community is the threat implied by the Soviet ICBM and the requirement for accurately estimating future Soviet missile-space developments. Ideally, the best method open for assessing the missile threat would be provided through the observation of an operational ICBM site. Inasmuch as this circumstance is not likely to occur in the near future, the next best method, namely, periodic photo-surveillance of the missile test programs and facilities, should be used to full advantage. Therefore, we feel that a request for new coverage of the TYURA TAM Missile Test Range and associated facilities is justified.

2. A second coverage of TYURA TAM, we feel, could produce information of great importance to the intelligence community. Information obtained could:

- a. Provide the basis for more accurate estimates of the threat presented by Soviet ICBM to the national security of the United States.
- b. Permit timely assessments of the future trends of the Soviet missile-space program.
- c. Assist in directing future intelligence collection vis a vis the Soviet missile program.
- d. Determine the operational missile concepts employed by Soviets in the deployment of the ICBM.
- e. Provide the configuration of the Soviet ICBM or space vehicles. Technical evaluation of the configuration should result in filling many of the major intelligence gaps existing on the Soviet ICBM-space program, i.e., fuels, staging, and propulsion.
- f. Provide data for the analysis of the 950-1050 mm impact areas of the KAPUSTIN YAR Missile Test Range which should result in firm accuracy estimates for the Soviet short-range ballistic missiles.

**TOP SECRET**

50X1

**Page Denied**

**TOP SECRET**

cy / or c

7. The missile instrumentation sites on the attached chart have been isolated within the past year. These sites are associated with all three missile test ranges. It is our opinion that good coverage of these facilities would permit us to determine the probable functions and programs carried out at these facilities. In the previous Project coverage only the TYURA TAM launch site and the nearest down-range instrumentation site were photographed.

8. It is obvious that optimum benefit could be obtained by coverage at a time when the missile or space vehicle would be in place on the launch pad. We feel that chances are good that preliminary indications of intent to launch at a given time on a given day can be forecast within four to six hours if closely tied in with good field reporting.

9. It is recommended that for the maximum requirement a flight path corresponding to the black line on the attached chart be followed and for the minimum requirement the red line course. In passing the TYURA TAM launch pad, and of course a morning flight is essential to this, it is important to fly just to the East, in a South to North direction, to obtain optimum coverage of the pit and missile if one should be in place. We request that the largest reliable configuration be utilized and that System VI also be employed.

10. We have herein stated our reasons for the coverage of the TYURA TAM range and associated areas and include also, as Annex A, a list of 33 bonus targets which could be covered by the proposed maximum (black-line) flight plan. Annex B is a justification for coverage of

50X1

50X1

HAYDEN CHANNING  
TCO/OSI

Attachments: (3)

Distribution:

Cys 1 & 2 - fwd

3 - 6 - OSI

Regular ARC distribution

**TOP SECRET**

50X1